

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1127

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PROP, ET
SUBJ: BLAHHNESS OF MENGISTU'S INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
SPEECH; GREATER EVIDENCE OF COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY
AND POLITICIZATION OF ETHIOPIAN MASSES

SUMMARY. MENGISTU LAID OFF WESTERNERS AND CONSERVATIVE ARABS
IN MAMMOTH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY RALLY. ATTENTION WAS
DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO JUST-DECEASED EAST GERMAN IDEOLOGICAL
GODFATHER OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION, WERNER LAMBERZ, AND
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY. CUBANS ARE THE HEROES
OF THE DAY. POLITICIZATION OF ETHIOPIAN MASSES IS INTENSIFY-
ING WITH FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND DESPITE LACK OF PARTY
ORGANIZATION. END SUMMARY.

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1. CHAIRMAN MENGISUT'S MARCH 8 SPEECH BEFORE TENS OF THOU-
SANDS OF ASSEMBLED PERSONS IN REVOLUTION SQUARE WAS MORE
INTERESTING FOR WHAT IT DID NOT SAY THAN FOR WHAT IT DID.
THERE WERE ONLY VAGUE ATTACKS ON IMPERIALISM IN GENERAL,
WITH NO STATE OR GROUP OF STATES SINGLED OUT, AND THE
"REACTIONARY ARABS" ESCAPED ENTIRELY. AFTER A LACKLUSTER
TRIBUTE TO WOMEN'S MOVEMENT, ITS BEGINNING IN USA IN 1908,

AND ITS GROWTH UNDER INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM, MENGISTU DEVOTED THE MAJOR PART OF HIS SPEECH TO EULOGIZING COMRADE WERNER LAMBERZ (GDR POLITBUREAU MEMBER AND SEC GEN OF SOCIAL UNITY PARTY). LAMBERZ, WHO HAD JUST DIED IN HELICOPTER CRASH PREVIOUS DAY IN LIBYA, IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE IDEOLOGICAL GODFATHERS OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION PERHAPS MORE THAN ANY OTHER FOREIGNER.

2. PARADE OF WOMEN'S GROUPS, OFTEN ENCADRED BY ARMED MALES, FOLLOWED CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH AND LASTED OVER FOUR HOURS. TOTALS MUST HAVE BEEN AT LEAST 300,000. SEVERAL DIP OBSERVERS OF SUCH PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS SINCE 1974 REVOLUTION COMMENTED HOW MUCH BETTER ORGANIZED GROUPS ARE NOWADAYS, ON INCREASE IN INTERNATIONAL MARXIST SLOGANS AND ABUNDANCE OF RED FLAGS AND UNIFORMS, AND FINALLY NOTABLE ENTHUSIASM OF PARTICIPANTS. EFFICIENT EAST GERMAN INFLUENCE IN MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE WAS BROUGHT HOME BY OVER A THOUSAND BLACK-EDGED PORTRAITS OF COMRADE LAMBERZ PRINTED OVERNIGHT AND CARRIED BY MARCHERS. AT LEAST AN EQUAL NUMBER OF HAND-PAINTED PLACARDS LAMENTING HIS LOSS TO INTERNATIONAL AND ETHIOPIAN COMMUNISM MARCHED PAST, TOO.

3. BIGGEST AND WITHOUT A DOUBT MOST SPONTANEOUS APPLAUSE OF THE DAY WAS AWARDED BY CROWD TO EXHUBERANT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBAN WOMEN. CUBAN AMBASSADOR AND STAFF WERE INVITED TO LEAVE DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE AND JOIN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESUMABLY AS FURTHER SIGN OF SOLIDARITY. CLEARLY CUBAN WILLINGNESS TO SHARE BLOOD ON BATTLEFIELD HAS MADE THEIR REPRESENTATIVES THE MOST POPULAR OF ALL THE FOREIGN COMMUNISTS.

4. MARXIST INDOCTRINATION IS PENETRATING ETHIOPIAN MASSES MORE THOROUGHLY AND IN MORE ORDERLY MANNER THAN, WE BELIEVE, IN ALMOST ANY OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRY. DESPITE SINCERE ASSURANCES OF SO MANY AFRICAN AMBASSADORS THAT ETHIOPIANS, AS AFRICANS, CAN NEVER BECOME "TRULY COMMUNIST," IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE IS AN INDIGENOUS MOVEMENT WHICH EASTERN EUROPEANS HAVE BEEN GOING ALL OUT TO CULTIVATE AND WILL NOT GIVE UP EASILY. MATHERON

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